

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Land of Heart's
Desire ... inside
on page 12.



ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. After adventures in the house of the White Rabbit, Alice hurried away through the woods, hoping to find her way into the lovely garden, but she had no real idea how to set about it.

2. "Somehow I've got to grow up again," she said. "I suppose I ought to eat or drink something or other, but the question is what?" Alice looked around and saw a large mushroom nearby.



3. When she had looked under it and on both sides of it and behind it, she thought she might as well look and see what was on top of it. She peeped over the edge and her eyes met those of a large caterpillar, sitting on the top.



4. Taking a hookah pipe out of its mouth, the caterpillar addressed her in a sleepy voice. "Who are you?" it said. "I hardly knew, sir, just at present," Alice replied rather shyly. "I can't remember things as I used to and I don't keep the same size for ten minutes together."



"You are old, Father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head—
Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

"You are old," said the youth, "as I mentioned before,
And have grown most uncommonly fat;
Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door—
Pray, what is the reason for that?"

"You are old," said the youth, "and your jaws are too weak
For anything tougher than suet;
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the skin—
Pray, how is your digestion to-day?"


"You are old," said the youth, "and would hardly suppose
That your eye was as steady as ever;
Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose—
What made you do that, my dear?"

"In my youth," Father William replied to his son,
"I feared it might injure the brain;
But now that I'm perfectly sure that I've none,
Why, I do it again and again."

"In my youth," said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,
"I kept all my limbs very supple
By the use of this oil—~~one-shilling the bottle~~—
Always and I will give you a couple."

"In my youth," said his father, "I took to the law,
And argued each case with my wife;
And the muscular strength which I gained in my law,
Has served the rest of my life."

"I have answered three questions, and that is enough,"
Said his father; "don't give yourself airs;
Do you think I can take all day to such stuff?
Be off, or I'll knock you down!"



5. "You can't remember things?" said the caterpillar. "Come now, see if you can say 'You are old, Father William'. It's a poem," Alice said she would try, folded her hands together and began, speaking the words of the jolly poem shown above.

6. She did very well, but the caterpillar said, "You didn't say it right—it's wrong from beginning to end." Then there was a silence for quite a few minutes. The caterpillar was the first to speak. "One side makes you taller, the other shorter," it said.



7. "One side of what? The other side of what?" thought Alice to herself. "Of the mushroom, of course," the caterpillar said, just as if she had asked it aloud. Then it yawned once or twice, got down off the mushroom and crawled away until it was out of sight.



8. Alice looked thoughtfully at the mushroom, trying to make out what were the two sides of it. As it was perfectly round she found this a difficult question. However, she stretched her arms round and broke off a bit of the end with each hand.



9. She nibbled a little of the right-hand bit and the next moment felt a violent blow under her chin. She had shrunk so fast, it had struck her foot!



10. Her chin was pressed so closely against her foot that there was hardly room to open her mouth, but she did manage to swallow a morsel of the left-hand bit. "Oh dear, I do hope I have done the right thing," she thought.



11. However, after a few anxious seconds of waiting, she felt her chin lift upwards. "My head's free at last," she said, but then her delight changed to alarm.



12. All she could see when she looked down was an immense length of neck, which seemed to rise like a stalk out of the green leaves. Then a pigeon flew along. "Serpent!" it cried. (See what happens next week.)



1. Tree Frog. You all know that frogs which live in water have webbed feet to help them when they swim. But there are also frogs which climb trees and their feet have toes with sticky pads on the end. That is why a tree frog never slips and falls.

2. Macaw. There are many birds in the big parrot family and the macaw is the biggest and most brightly coloured of them all. Its claws have four toes—two in front and two behind. It uses them for perching and also for holding food up to its beak.



All Sorts of



3. Jacana. There are several kinds of these rather strange birds. The one shown is from South America. They are sometimes known as "lily-walkers" and they have long-clawed feet, which allow them to walk lightly and quickly over floating leaves.



4. Climbing Perch. It may seem odd that a fish is included in this collection of all sorts of useful feet, because fish don't really have feet—only fins which are used for swimming. However, the climbing perch can be said to use its fins as feet, for it likes to leave the water and climb trees when they are wet after rain. It can "walk" a hundred yards in 30 minutes.



5. **Horse.** Years and years ago, horses lived in swampy forests and had three toes. When swamps became grassland the middle toe became a strong hoof of just the right shape for a horse to run at speed.



6. **Chimpanzee.** You can see that a chimpanzee, like others of the ape and monkey family, has feet almost like human hands, and it uses them for climbing.

Useful Feet



7. **Sloth.** This slow-moving animal spends almost all its life hanging in an upside-down position from tree-branches. One kind of sloth has two-toed feet and another three-toed feet. Both kinds live in South America, and they use their special feet for upside-down travel through the trees. As you can see in the picture above, their feet are just right for performing this sort of movement for their claws are like strong hooks.



8. **Chameleon.** Like the sloth, a chameleon moves very slowly through trees. Its feet are interesting in that the front pair have three outer toes and two inner toes, and the back pair have two outer toes and three inner toes. Each foot resembles a small pair of tongs, which gives the chameleon a tight grip.



BRER RABBIT

This week: Brer Terrapin shows his strength.

If there was one animal as crafty as Brer Rabbit, it was Brer Terrapin. Like Brer Rabbit, he was smaller and weaker than most of the other animals, but what he lacked in size and strength he made up for in brains.

Now one day, Miss Meadows and the girls gave a party and invited most of the animals to it. Of course, nearly everybody turned up, because all the animals liked a party and they all liked Miss Meadows and the girls. They weren't playing tricks on each other, either, because Miss Meadows had put her foot down and told them they had to keep the peace when they came to her house.

Well, so many turned up at the party, that Miss Meadows, who was making sugar candy, had to get out the big wash-pot to make enough for everybody. She filled it with treacle and some of them

built a fire in the yard to boil the treacle.

All the animals gave a hand. Brer Bear helped Miss Meadows bring in the wood for the fire; Brer Fox made the fire and watched it; Brer Rabbit greased the plates to keep the sugar-candy from sticking to them, and Brer Terrapin climbed up on to a chair, so that he could see the treacle didn't boil over.

After a while, all the animals began to boast about the things they could do.

Brer Rabbit said he was the swiftest of them all and Brer Terrapin—he just sat there in his chair, looking at the treacle. Brer Fox said he was the sharpest of them all, and Brer Terrapin just sat and rocked in his chair. Brer Wolf said he was the savagest, and Brer Terrapin just rocked and said nothing. Brer Bear said he was the strongest, and Brer Terrapin went on watching the treacle.

At last, he closed one eye thoughtfully and said: "I could show Brer Bear that he isn't the strongest, if he cares to try his strength with me."

Of course, all the other animals laughed out loud to think of poor, weak Brer Terrapin getting the better of Brer Bear. Miss Meadows asked Brer Terrapin how he was going to do it.

"Just give me a strong rope, let me get to a pool of water and then see if Brer Bear can manage to pull me out on to dry land again," replied Brer Terrapin.

Miss Meadows said that she had a rope they could use, and so they got the rope and set off for the stream. When Brer Terrapin had found the place he was looking for, he took hold of one end of the rope and Brer Bear took hold of the other end.

"Now you all go with Brer Bear into the



woods," said Brer Terrapin. "I'll stay down here. When I shout, you'll know I'm ready for Brer Bear to start pulling, to see if he can drag me up there. You all take care of that end of the rope and I'll take care of my end."

As soon as the others had felt and gone up to the woods, Brer Terrapin dived down to the bottom of the stream and found a big root. He tied his end of the rope to it and then he swam back up again and sat on the edge of the stream. Then he gave a shout. "Ready, Brer Bear," he called.

Brer Bear rubbed his hands, winked at the others, and gave a tug on the rope, thinking he would yank Brer Terrapin and the rope up the hill at once, but Brer Terrapin didn't move. Brer Bear frowned. Then he took the rope firmly in both hands and hauled on it. Still Brer Terrapin

didn't move. Brer Bear turned round, put the rope over his shoulder and tried to walk off, but Brer Terrapin still sat down there by the stream, looking as though nothing in the world would make him budge.

Then the other animals gave a hand, but they might just as well not have bothered. It didn't move an inch and neither did Brer Terrapin.

At last they all had to give up and admit they were defeated and when Brer Terrapin saw them start down the path from the woods towards him, he dived down at once and untied the rope from the root at the bottom of the stream. When they all reached the stream again, there was Brer Terrapin sitting quite still, holding the rope, just as if nothing had happened and looking most surprised to see them.

"That last pull was a good one, Brer Bear," he said. "I thought you might move me an inch or two that time. You certainly pulled like a yoke of oxen. Pity you didn't try again, Brer Bear. But I had a good hold. It would have taken some strength to shift the rope with the grip I'd got."

Then Brer Bear said all he could think of was that sugar-candy, which must be ready by now and it was making his mouth water just to think about it, so they gave the rope back to Miss Meadows and they all made their way to her house. When they got there, that sugar-candy was just right to eat and they forgot all about Brer Terrapin and Brer Bear and settled down to eat, but Brer Bear scratched his head and puzzled over it but he never did find the answer.

Another chuckle tale of Brer Rabbit and his friends next week.

The Legend of FORGET-ME-NOT



1. Many, many years ago when the World was only young, a very handsome angel left Paradise and came down to Earth. Peeping from behind a tree beside a river, he saw a beautiful maiden gathering a bunch of forget-me-nots to entwine in her hair.



2. The angel stepped forward and took the girl by the hand. They looked into each other's eyes and did not say a word. They had fallen in love.



3. But when the angel returned to Paradise, a flash of forked lightning kept him away. He was refused entry because he had fallen in love with a mortal.



4. He was told that he could only return to Paradise if the maiden he loved planted the flowers of the lovely forget-me-not in every corner of the world. So he returned to Earth to help in this task.



5. When their long task was over, the maiden became immortal and she and her beloved entered Paradise to live happily ever after, having made the Earth a prettier place with forget-me-nots.



This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story turn to page 16. To see how good your memory is, try to answer the questions you will find there.

The Tawny Owl

There is one question that you cannot really ask the Wise Old Owl on page 26 of *Once Upon A Time* and the question is "How wise is an owl?" Well, the answer to that is that owls are wise in their own ways, like all other creatures which have to learn how to get the food they need to keep themselves alive.

Most owls do their food hunting at night, because daylight is too strong for their eyes. During the day they sit and blink and say nothing. But they manage to look very wise when they are doing this, so people think that owls know a lot that they do not wish to talk about.

A wise owl certainly does not go flying

around during the day. If it does, then the other smaller birds will gather round and attack and worry the life out of it.

The Tawny Owl, the one shown in the picture, is found in almost every country of the world. It is the one which gives out the well-known cry of "Tu-whit, tu-who!" and it is very useful to farmers, for its food consists of insects, mice and voles, which harm the farmers' crops.

Owls are different from all other birds, because they have a circle of feathers around their eyes and beak. This gives them a separate flat face and also a very solemn expression.

There are perhaps one or two things that

you did not know about owls. First, their eyes. As you can see, they are big and round and just right for seeing well in poor light. But their eyes are fixed straight ahead, so that if an owl wants to look to one side, or even behind it, it has to turn its whole head round.

An owl has very keen ears. At night, when other birds and animals are in a quiet sleep, owls listen carefully to the sounds of movements around them, and can easily hear the noise made by a beetle or a mouse moving through grass.

Isn't that amazing?

There are about 200 different kinds of owls but all their eggs are white. Baby owls are called owlets.



Great Rivers of the World

The Upper DANUBE

The whole of the Danube, the greatest river of Europe, is 1,750 miles long and travels through a number of countries on its way to the Black Sea. On these two pages we show you the upper part of the river and three of the countries through which it passes. It rises in the German Black Forest, passing through farming country. In this area are made the Black Forest cuckoo clocks, which are world famous.



Leaving Germany, the River Danube flows southward into Austria, where castle-like buildings have been built on cliffs above the river. In this "fairy-land" the people of Austria can be seen wearing their attractive national costume.



Hungary is the next country entered by the upper part of the River Danube. Here the villages have church towers built entirely of wood. On Sundays, the country women dress in peasant costumes with headscarves and decorated blouses.



By taking a trip along the river you would be able to see some very interesting examples of the wildlife of these parts. Two fish which live in the river are **The Schreiner** and the **Sal** and **The Zingel**. These are predator fish which means that they hunt and eat other kinds of fish.

Fluttering around the **Crabapple** plant are two butterflies of the region: **The Poplar-white Admiral** and the **Alpine-clouded Yellow**.

An unusual animal to be seen along the banks of the Upper Danube is **The Black Squirrel**. It is tailed and is larger than it belongs to the Red Squirrel family.

Land of Heart's Desire





5 But nobody knew. Of course he had many exciting adventures. He fell in with a band of robbers who took all his money. He turned on as a sailor and his ship was sunk in a great storm that washed him up on some foreign shore—there he watched a magnificent procession go by with a ducky Princess being carried on the back of a huge elephant; he saw wonderful sights and learned a many things he'd never dreamed existed. But he seemed no nearer to The Land of the Heart's Desire.



6 One day after many years of wandering he came upon an old man seated by the roadside. "Sir, can you tell me how I go to The Land of the Heart's Desire?" he asked. And the old man told him it was just over the next hill.



7 So although he was very weary he walked all day and by evening he had reached the brow of the hill. He looked down into the valley beyond, and do you know what he saw? Why his old home and shining through the dusk a lamp his mother had placed in the window to guide him when he returned.



8 And suddenly he knew that The Land of the Heart's Desire is simply the place you most want to be. He ran down the hill, calling to his parents and they came joyfully to meet him. "Did you find the place you were looking for my son?" asked his father. "Yes," said Paul. "And I shall never leave it again."



Beautiful

What an interesting picture! Beautiful! It is a picture of a group of people in a forest. The woman in the red dress is sitting on the ground, looking down. The man in the blue shirt is sitting on the ground, looking up. The group of people in the background are standing and looking towards the camera. The painting is done in a soft, painterly style with a warm, golden light.

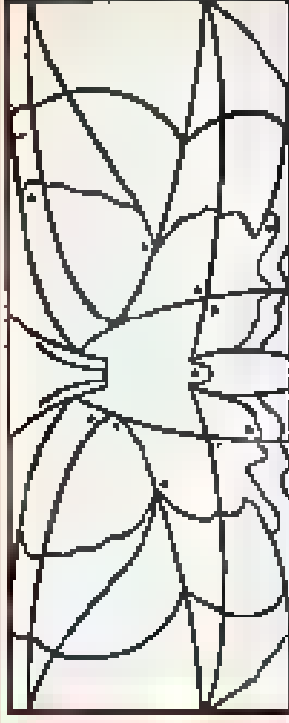
Paintings

The title of this painting is 'Beautiful'. It is a picture of a group of people in a forest. The woman in the red dress is sitting on the ground, looking down. The man in the blue shirt is sitting on the ground, looking up. The group of people in the background are standing and looking towards the camera. The painting is done in a soft, painterly style with a warm, golden light.

Some Islands of the West Indies



As you can see from the map on the left, Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic lie between the continents of North America and South America. There is an island chain from Florida to Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, Pinar del Rio, Kingston, and San Juan. Without crossing any lines of the maze, to draw a line across the island chain, it is not possible in the world's most difficult maze.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week Stephanie falls in the bog

REX the Wrecker the naughty little mouse who lived near to Winifred in the country had been up to his socks again. He and his friends had been playing at cave-men and they had dug an animal trap, which they carefully covered over with twigs and leaves. They hoped they were going to catch wild animals just like the cave-men did. It was all right, said Rex. "It won't hurt anybody, and nobody ever comes here."

Now that was just where Rex was wrong. That day Winifred's smart friend Stephanie the town mouse had gone for a ride in her boyfriend Nigel's car.

They stopped at a restaurant and by the time they were ready to go home Stephanie felt they had had a very successful day out.

But on the way home, there was a strange coughing and spluttering from the car engine and the car stopped. Nigel got out. "Oh dear," he said. "I wonder what's gone wrong."

He looked at the engine and poked and prodded hopefully, but nothing happened. He tried to make it start, but nothing happened.

Nigel got out again. This time he crawled right underneath the car to see if that would give him any idea about what was wrong, but it didn't, so he got back in and tried to start the car again. It still didn't move.

"Oh, come on, Nigel," said Stephanie rather sharply. "If you don't hurry, we shan't get home tonight."

Nigel looked rather shamefaced. "If somebody doesn't come along and give us a tow, I don't think we shall get home," he said.

"What?" shrieked Stephanie. "Do you mean we'll be stuck here all night if nobody comes along?"

Nigel nodded gloomily. "I'm afraid so," he said. "But there's a rug in the back. You can wrap it around you, so that you won't get too cold."

"If you think I'm going to spend the night sitting in a cold, draughty car with a rug wrapped round me, you can think again," said Stephanie, opening the car door.

But where are you going? asked Nigel.

Stephanie hesitated. She hadn't thought of that and the trouble was that there was nowhere to go.

Just as she was about to get out, she saw that she had a visitor. A small, round, red nose in the air and said in a most superior voice, "If your car won't go, then had better go and fetch help."

"I'd better come with you, in case you get lost or something," said Nigel.

"Nonsense, of course, shan't get lost," retorted Stephanie. "I shall be quite all right. You can stay here and see if you can get the car to go. You do, give me a shout."

Stephanie set off and, after a while, she saw a track through the trees. "Where there's a path, there must be people to have made it," she told herself. "So I'll follow the path and see if I can find them."

Oh, she said, but she couldn't find a cottage or any people. She pushed on through the bushes and she was beginning to feel very cross now, for the brambles tore at her clothes and a few thorns got stuck in her fur.

"I really do think there should be

proper roads and proper signposts in the country, just like there are in the town," she said to herself crossly. "After all, one does have to be a little bit going."

The trouble was that there were there no houses in sight, but the path seemed to have disappeared, too. Stephanie chose what seemed to be the easiest way to go, and she went on and on. "How long it is going to take," she thought, "I'll never know," she grumbled to herself. "They must find their way back like homing pigeons."

She didn't come across a house, but what she did come across was the hide-out that Rex the Wrecker and his friends had found for themselves. She put her foot on some loose logs and suddenly the ground seemed to drop from under her feet and down she went, into a hole which she hadn't seen because it had been covered with twigs and grass.

"Ooh, I've fallen into a trap," said Stephanie. She tried to get up and sat down again, very quickly.

"Oh, I must have mistaken my traps," she said to herself. "I'm stuck here, but I do hope Nigel comes to look for me soon, or I may be here for a very long time."

See what happens to Stephanie in *Owls Open A Time* next week.

Here are the questions from the story "The Tawny Owl" on page 8. How many can you answer before turning back to check?

1. Why do most owls do their food

2. What colour are owls' eggs?



The Tired Prince



1. Once there was a handsome Prince who was always falling asleep. His parents, the Duke and Duchess, were very embarrassed when, at a birthday party, given in his honour he fell fast asleep. "What can be done?" they cried. The pretty girls who had been invited to his party grew quite annoyed. "The Prince never looks at us," they said. "He is always fast asleep."

2. The court doctors came to see the Prince, and shook their heads in dismay. "We can do nothing," they said. "His illness is a mystery to us. Not even the world's best doctor could cure the Prince of being always tired."



3. So Prince Paulus, as he was called, continued to fall asleep at odd times. One day, when riding in the forest, he saw an old woman crossing a wooden bridge. Suddenly, the bridge collapsed, and she fell into the river.

4. Within a few seconds, the Prince had leapt off his horse and dived into the fast-moving river. "Help! Help me!" screamed the old woman. "Don't worry," called the Prince, battling against the strong current. "I'm coming."



5. It took all his strength to pull the woman to safety, and no sooner had his feet touched the land than he fell asleep again. Looking into his face, the old woman gasped in surprise. "Ah, I know who you are," she muttered. "You are Prince Paulus himself."



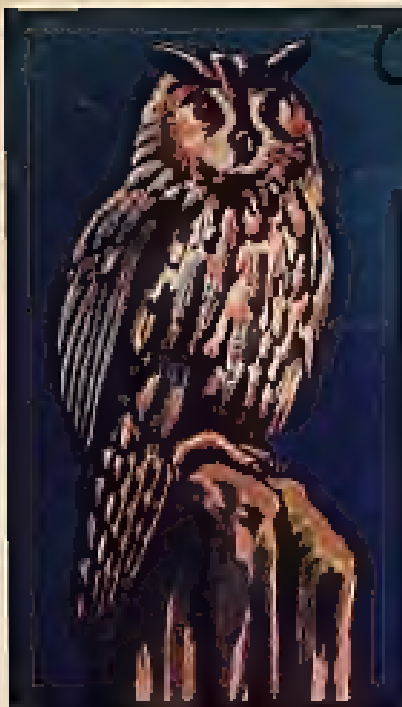
6. She walked over to a large iron pot that was full of some bubbling hot liquid and, taking a cup, she dipped it into the mixture and carried it back to the sleeping Prince. She knelt beside him, lifted up his head and poured the liquid into his mouth.



7. "Why," laughed Prince Paulus, winking up. "I've never felt so wide-awake before." "No," croaked the old woman. "You see I've just lifted a sleeping spell I put on you when you were a baby because your father laughed at my magic."



8. And so, from that day, Prince Paulus was the most popular Prince in the kingdom. All the young ladies loved him because he was the life and soul of every party, and he could dance all night without even one little yawn.



The WISE OLD OWL

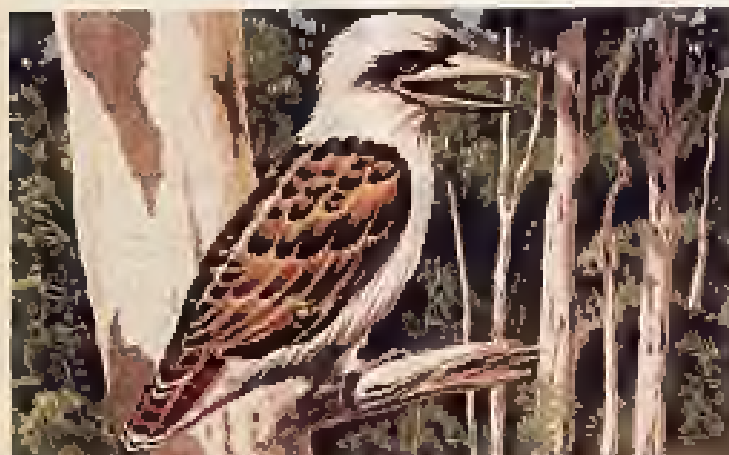
Knows all the answers



1. Who was the Black Prince?

Our Wise Old Owl knows the answers to your puzzling questions.

This was a strange nickname given to the son of King Edward the Third. He was really a Prince, but 'Black' was added to his title because he wore black armour when fighting. Most paintings show him wearing the 'black armour', and over his tomb, in Canterbury Cathedral, lies a figure in black armour. Richard the Second, his son, became King when he was only ten years old."



2. What is a Laughing Jackass?

"A bird whose cry sounds very much like a human laugh (see above picture). The Australian Jackass or kingfisher is more commonly known there as the Kookaburra. It feeds on fish, small birds, snakes and other reptiles."



3. When will Halley's Comet appear again?

"In 1986. This particular comet was spotted by Edmund Halley, a famous English astronomer. He worked out that his comet would appear every 76 years, and so far his workings-out have been right. A comet is made up of solid matter and waste gases."



4. Can you tell me what is a Hacienda?

"This is a Spanish word meaning estate. In many countries of South America, a large farm, or ranch, or any other large dwelling is called a Hacienda."



5. Where does Cashmere Wool come from?

"From a goat that is found in the mountains of Tibet and the Himalayas. It has a thick coat of greyish hair which makes the beautiful cashmere sweaters and cardigans we buy in the shops."